

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 11 (Cancelled).

12. (New) An input unit for a field device, comprising:
a registering unit serving as an electronic identifier of a user, which enables a definite identification of the user; and
means for connecting said registering unit to the field device.

13. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
said electronic identifier is a signature.

14. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 13, wherein:
said registering unit has a display; and
the signature is entered by the user by hand via said display.

15. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:
a portable transmitter, wherein:
the signature is transferred from said portable transmitter via radio transmission to said registering unit.

16. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the signature serves for the signing of electronic documents.

17. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the input unit is implemented as a field device.

18. (New) A transmitting unit for process automation technology, to an input unit having a registering unit, comprising:

means for storing an electronic signature of the user therein, and wirelessly transmitting the signature to said registering unit.

19. (New) An input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

it satisfies the FDA certification regulations 21 CFR Part 11 Rules.

20. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

the input unit is connectable to a communications network.

21. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

electronic documents shown on said display can, using inputs via the display, be signed, and/or annotated, in handwriting by the user.

22. (New) The input unit as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

annotations to the electronic documents are saved such that they are unchangeable, and/or provided with the clock-time of the input.